



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 44 No. 12 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) December 2020

The Birth Of Jesus Christ

By Brian Donovan

The Bible marks the first coming of the Lord Jesus into this world with, **"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise. . ."** (Matt. 1:18). He was the firstborn of Mary's other children (Matt. 1:25), of which there were at least six more (Mark 6:3). The pagan Roman Church corrupts Matthew 1:25 by dropping the word **"firstborn"**, and the modern perversions follow her lead.

Any attempt to make Mary a perpetual virgin, denies the scriptures (Matt. 13:55, Mark 6:3, and Psa. 69:9), and the Roman Catholic answer is that these were actually cousins. But a "cousin" is not a "brother" in either English or Greek (Luke 1:36,58). The event of Christ's birth was on God's timetable as **"when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman"** (Gal. 4:4), and the Lord came **"in the likeness of**

sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3). Both the time (Dan. 9:25) and the place (Mic. 5:2) were prophesied, and without controversy, this remains a great mystery that the eternal God should be made **"manifest in the flesh"** (I Tim. 3:16).

Appearing to Joseph in a number of dreams to direct his decisions (Matt. 1:20; 2:12-13; 2:19; 2:22), the Lord told Joseph that he was to name this child Jesus ("Jehovah saves"—Matt. 1:21), and that He would also be known as Immanuel (God with us—Matt. 1:23), fulfilling Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was one of a number of children in the Bible to be named before they were born, having meaning and prophecy tied to their names, including Ishmael ("God shall hear"—Gen. 16:11), Isaac ("Laughter"—Gen. 17:19), Solomon ("Peace"—1 Chron. 22:9), Josiah ("Jehovah has healed"—I Kings 13:2), Cyrus ("Heir to Throne"—Isa. 45:1), and John the Baptist ("Jehovah is gracious"—Luke 1:13).

Some wise men from the east were

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“Love Thy Neighbour”

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to JUSTIFY HIMSELF, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:25–29).

On two occasions during Christ's ministry (at least as far as the record goes), a lawyer came up to Jesus asking about what were the most important commandments to keep. Last month we dealt with that question as presented to the Lord in the last week of His earthly ministry before the crucifixion—the passage on the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:37–38. This month we want to deal with that second great commandment there in Matthew 22:39—**“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”** (taken from Lev. 19:18)—except, this time, we will be dealing with the first instance of this coming up in Luke 10.

Luke 10 takes place about the middle of Christ's ministry (toward the end of it), but just as in Matthew 22, a lawyer asks Jesus, and that lawyer does it to tempt the Lord. The lawyer is not asking an honest question for information; he is trying to trip up Jesus in His words (see the same operation in Luke 11:53–54).

Now you won't put one over on

Jesus Christ. The Lord didn't just give His “opinion”; He would put the *scriptures* on His enemies every time. **“What is written in the law? how readest thou?”** That lawyer was crooked, but he wasn't stupid. He gave the right answer under the *Mosaic law*: **“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart . . . strength, and . . . mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”**

That was the right answer according to Jesus Christ, but like I said, that's an impossible commandment to keep. You could get life from the law if you could keep that commandment, but the reason the law condemns us is because no one can keep that commandment (Gal. 3:10). I only know of one man in 6,000+ years of human history who ever did keep it: it was the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to keep the law you couldn't keep so that He could redeem you from the law's condemnation.

“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe” (Gal. 3:21–22).

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin,

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condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:2–4).

You can't be saved by the law—not even the law of loving God and loving your neighbor. Nobody keeps those two commandments to *God's* satisfaction. That is why, when you get saved, the Holy Spirit has to shed God's love abroad in your heart to enable you to love as you ought (Rom. 5:5).

The law was given to show you your sinful condition (Rom. 3:10, 7:7). It is like a mirror that shows you what is wrong (James 1:23–24). Can you imagine a man going to the bathroom in the morning, looking in the mirror, and breaking the mirror and trying to wash his face in the shards of broken glass? That's the exact position of at least half of the people in America, who are trying to get to heaven on their own merits. You're trying to get to heaven by keeping the commandments, are you? Hey, man—you've broken them! The glass is shattered.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Now notice that there were two ways Christ's words were handled. Over in Mark 12:28–34 when the question comes up about the greatest commandment, that scribe **“answered discreetly”** (Mark 12:34) and agreed with what Christ said.

Jesus said he was **“not far from the kingdom of God”** (Mark 12:34).

But this guy in Luke 10 doesn't do that. He tries to find the “loophole” in the law.

“But he, willing to JUSTIFY HIMSELF, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:29).

Do you see the difference in the two responses? One fellow agreed with the truth. He was headed down the right road. If he kept at it, it wouldn't be long before the law led him to Christ (Gal. 3:24). But the other fellow tried to *justify himself* by finding a way of “qualifying” what Jesus said.

“What do you mean by ‘saved’?”
 “Yes, but how do we ‘receive Christ’?”
 “What do you mean by ‘born again’?”
 “What do you mean by ‘what do you mean’?” That's the business—always trying to find a way around what God says in His Book.

Now if the guy hadn't been trying to justify himself, his question would have been a legitimate one for an Old Testament Jew. If you read your Old Testament carefully, you will notice that it makes a distinction between Jews and “strangers.” The strangers were Gentiles who lived in the land. In an Old Testament sense, a Jew's “neighbor” would be *another Jew*. Once those Jews get out of Egypt and are given the law, those references to a man's neighbor aren't referring to the guy next door; they are his **“brethren”**—others of his own race (see Lev. 19:13–18). So when Jesus answers this lawyer, He answers him with a *racial* situation. And of course, there are some great lessons *in type*

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we can draw from this parable.

The **“certain man”** would be a Jew, but Jesus doesn't identify him that way. He's just **“A certain man.”** This is a picture of the human race. It is a picture of a sinner—a fallen son of Adam.

He goes **“down from Jerusalem.”** Jerusalem **“is the city of the great King”** (Matt. 5:35). So in type, this is a man who has left God. When a sinner leaves God, he always goes *down*.

In the parable, this man goes **“down from Jerusalem to JERICHO.”** Jericho was a *cursed* city (Josh. 6:26). So the picture is of a sinner who leaves God and is headed for *hell* (cf. Isa. 34; Rev. 18).

On the trip, this man **“fell among thieves.”** That is a picture of the Devil (notice in Luke 8:5, 12 that the Devil singular is described in the plural). The Devil **“is a thief and a robber** (John 10:1).

These **“thieves”** stripped the man **“of his raiment.”** Revelation 19:8 says the saints are **“arrayed in fine linen”** and that **“fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”** This is a picture of Satan robbing a man of his righteousness, like he did with Adam in Genesis 3. This fellow started out right, but ended up bad (see Ezek. 18:24). Like the prodigal of Luke 15, he started out a son of the Father and ended up wasting his substance with harlots and riotous living.

“God gave him passions splendid as the sun—

Meant for the lordliest purpose.
A part

Of nature's full and fertile mother heart,

From which new systems and new worlds are spun.

And now, behold what he hath done,

In folly's court and carnal pleasure's mart:

He flung the wealth God gave him at the start,

This, of all mortal sins, the deadliest one.

“At dawn he stood; potential, opulent,

With virile manhood and emotions keen,

And wonderful with god's creative fire.

At noon he stands, all life's large fortune spent,

In petty traffic, unproductive, mean.

A pauper, cursed by impotent desire.”

“The Squanderer” by
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

“And wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.”

The Devil doesn't care what happens to you, bub. He will take everything you've got and not blink an eye.

Notice the **“half dead”** of Luke 10:30. That's the condition of every unsaved man: he has a *live body* but a *dead spirit*. That's why he needs the new birth.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:6–7).

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Here is this man—the perfect picture of a poor, depraved, fallen sinner—lying by the roadside half dead (and going to be dead shortly unless he gets help), and a priest passes by. That priest takes one look at that guy lying there with cuts and bruises all over him, and he gives him a “wide berth.” Why? Because that priest saw the man was just about dead, and he couldn’t use him. The dying man wasn’t “politically expedient,” so the priest left him there in his own blood.

Then a Levite came by, and he got a little closer than the priest: “**He came and looked on him**” (Luke 10:32). But he turned away and walked off.

Then Jesus says, “**But a certain Samaritan . . .**” (Luke 10:33). The notation is remarkable. A Samaritan was a half Jew-half Gentile (2 Kings 17:24–41). Surely you know what that pictures. The Bible says that in Christ, “**There is neither Jew nor Greek**” (Gal. 3:26–28). It says, “**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles**” (1 Cor. 12:13). Christ’s spiritual body is a Jew-Gentile body according to Ephesians 2. This Samaritan, therefore, is a perfect picture of Jesus Christ.

That Samaritan “**came where he was.**” Ah, what a day for you and me, when He came *where we were!* That wasn’t just the day He was born of a virgin to “**save his people from their sins**” (Matt. 1:21). That wasn’t just the day when He died “**the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God**” (1 Pet. 3:18). That was the day when He came to you and me

personally, through His Holy Spirit, to convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8–11). That day for me was in 1949, when I was working as a disc jockey for a radio station here in Pensacola, Florida, and as a drummer in a dance band at night. The Holy Spirit sent Hugh Pyle into that radio station to witness to me and lead me to Christ.

“**And when he saw him, he had compassion on him.**” That’s Jesus Christ! One of the names of “Allah” is supposed to be “the Compassionate.” What did Allah ever do for any of his followers to show his compassion on them. A Muslim will say, “He sent Mohammed to teach us the truth.” A murderous, licentious, self-absorbed military dictator a sign of God’s compassion?! Like Santa Claus said coming down the chimney—“Ho! Ho! Ho!”

Besides, that’s not doing anything *for you*; that’s just showing you something *you can do for yourself*. “Islam” is just another manifestation of Cain’s fruit stand: do this, this, and this; and don’t that, that, or that; and you *might* make it. That is Islam, Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Buddhism, Protestantism, Hinduism, Mormonism—all the same difference. They are all religions of *do*; Bible-believing Christianity is a “religion,” if you will, of *done*.

Listen, my Saviour showed His compassion for me in a tangible way. *He died for me* (Rom. 5:8). *He became sin for me* (2 Cor. 5:21). *That’s love* (1 John 4:10).

Jesus Christ doesn’t just show men how to live; He saves men. His love isn’t just a past act of dying on the cross for the sins of men; He

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comes to men and *deals* with them about their souls. You people trying to get saved by following Christ's teachings and principles *have never met Him*.

Do you think when that Samaritan came to that dying man he said, “Share the love of God,” or “Look at things positively,” or “Find your purpose,” or “Keep your promises,” or “You can have your best life now,” or “You don't have any problems; all you need is faith in God,” etc.? That Samaritan didn't give that dying man that baloney. He came to him and *saved* him.

That Samaritan **“bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine”** (Luke 10:34). That Bible says of the Lord Jesus: **“by whose stripes ye were healed”** (1 Pet. 2:24). The context of that is *salvation*, not some faith healer trying to fleece you of your bank account. The **“oil”** is a picture of the Holy Spirit, and the wine is a picture of the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:27–28). **“In whom we have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD”** (Col. 1:14).

“And brought him to an inn, and took care of him.” Isn't that great! The greatest day of my life was when the Good Samaritan found me wounded on the Jericho Road, and picked me up and said, “It's all right, son. From now on I'm taking care of you.”

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psa. 23:1).

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

“So that we may boldly say, The

Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Heb. 13:6).

What a great job He has done of taking care of me! How superior is His care as compared with how the government and the Army and the schools and the churches and my own parents took care of me. The Bible says:

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up” (Psa. 27:10).

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you . . .” (Isa. 66:13).

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him” (Psa. 103:13).

When that Samaritan had to leave, **“he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee”** (Luke 10:35). I know who **“the host”** is: He's the Holy Spirit. When the Lord Jesus returned to heaven, He left me in the Holy Spirit's care. The *Holy Spirit* is “the Vicar of Christ,” not some wino over in Rome.

By the way, did you catch the promise there in verse 35? Jesus said, **“WHEN I come again,”** not “IF I come again.” Your “Good Samaritan” is coming back for you.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).

If you are a lost person reading this, you are on the outside looking in.

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I have something you don't have, and you need it really badly. Spiritually I am in the “inn” (I am in **“the love of God”** [Rom. 8:39], and I am in the body of Christ [1 Cor. 12:13]. Either one is good, so take your pick). My account with God has been paid in full (Rom. 5:9), and if I should owe anything else, my *Saviour* will take care of it when He comes back (1 Cor. 1:7–8; Phil. 1:6).

Some of you poor, pitiful creatures don't know your bills are paid yet. You've been taught you can't know until after you're dead, and even then, you might have to pay the balance yourself in purgatory. Aren't you in one cotton-picking mess! Bless God, when my Saviour purged me from my sins, He **“sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”** (Heb. 1:3), and from there He makes intercession for me and keeps me in His love (Rom. 8:34–35).

And just as those Jews were the enemies of the Samaritans (John 4:9), Jesus Christ died for us when we were His *enemies* (Rom. 5:10). If that Jew lying there in the road hadn't been in the state he was, he wouldn't have had anything to do with that Samaritan. And even though we didn't seek after God (Rom. 3:11), the Lord Jesus came to seek and save us (Luke 19:10) when we were **“ungodly”** (Rom. 5:6), when we were **“sinners”** (Rom. 5:8), and when we were **“enemies”** (Rom. 5:10). God Almighty takes a pen in His omnipotent hand, dips it in the eternal blood of His precious Son, and writes down across the debt column of my ledger: “Forgiven, unable to pay.”

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:36–37). In other words, the key to loving your neighbor is to be merciful to him just as Jesus Christ was merciful to you. Over in Luke 6:35–36, Jesus preached to **“love . . . your enemies,”** and He follows it up with: **“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful”** (Luke 6:6). How is God merciful—**“he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”** The Christian is commanded to be **“kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you”** (Eph. 4:32).

But you can't love your neighbor properly until you get in **“the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Rom. 8:39). You may be half dead and can't walk an aisle in a church to come to Christ; then turn your head toward Calvary and with the eye of faith “look and live.” You say, “I'm so wicked and depraved, I don't know if I can even do that.” Then close your eyes, bub, and when your heart skips a beat, say, “God, be merciful to me a sinner and save my soul for Jesus' sake.” If you come to Christ the best way you know how, He won't turn you away. He said, **“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”** (John 6:37). It won't be long before you're at the “inn” waiting for Him to come again. The promise is: **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Rom. 10:13).

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interested in the scriptural prophecy of the Messiah, and were looking for His star to appear (Matt.2:1-2), as foretold by the prophet Balaam in Numbers 24:17. This shows that the scripture had an effect on the Gentile world in many places, and that there has always been a minority of men who are interested in what saith the scripture. These wise men knew from studying Daniel's prophecy that the time of the Messiah's coming was drawing nigh. With a starting point of the **"commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem"**, these men knew that **"unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks"** (Dan. 9:25).

These wise men of the east believed the scripture and were waiting and looking for its fulfillment. Christians today would be wise to do the same, as we near the time of the rapture and the end of the present Church Age, with the second coming of the Lord Jesus to catch out His bride to be followed by the great tribulation period that will be unleashed upon this world.

This **"star"** led the men right to the very house (not manger) in Bethlehem, where the young child was (Matt. 2:9). There is not a star in the heavens today that could lead anyone to a specific house, so it should be obvious that this **"star"** was an angel, as defined by the scripture in Revelation 1:20.

In the early 1600s, an attempt to explain the star naturally was made by the lost astronomer Kepler (the murderer of the saved Tycho Brahe, whose astronomic calculations over

years and years of work, charted the motions of the sun, moon, and stars across the sky). After the murder, Kepler stole Brahe's calculations, came up with the laws of planetary motion, and is credited with claiming that the **"star"** was actually a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. This ridiculous assertion is still implied by some, in spite of the obvious fact that no planet, or conjunction of planets, could lead anyone to an exact location and then hover over it. The star of Matthew chapter 2 was another of the Lord's **"ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation"** (Heb. 1:14).

And so the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem was directed by the decree of the wicked Roman Caesar Augustus, who enforced a **"taxing"** (Luke 2:1-2), unaware that he was merely another pawn in the hand of the King of kings, who prophesied that He would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5), in spite of the fraudulent Book of Mormon, which makes the historical and anti-scriptural error that Jesus was born in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary were living in Nazareth at the time, and were forced by Caesar's taxing, to travel to the village of Bethlehem (where Joseph was from), and it just coincidentally happened to take place, as the babe was about to be born.

The modern corruptions of the scripture (NIV, RSV, ASV, NKJV, etc.) all destroy the cross-reference to the future Roman **"taxing"** at the coming of the antichrist (Dan. 11:20), by changing the word to "enroll", in order to make it a "census". John

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Wycliffe (1384) exposed the future Roman ruler when he translated the verse correctly as a "taxing". The Roman Catholic *Douay Rheims* (1582) corrupted it to read "enroll", and the modern Protestant sisters of this perversion all followed the roads back to Rome.

As a pagan ruler, Augustus cared nothing for the Jews and took no thought of any Messianic, prophetic scriptures when he, of his own free will, gave the decree. His only desire was to fill his government coffers, while the Lord God was using this ignorant soul to fulfill the holy scriptures, which cannot be broken (John 10:35). Just as Pharaoh (Exod. 9), Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 25), Pilate (John 18), Hitler (Jer. 16:16-18), and many other lost rulers of this world were used to fulfill the words of God, so also Augustus was used to place the birth of Christ in the lowly town of Bethlehem.

The traveler to this small village today will find endless souvenirs of rosaries, crosses, and manger scenes being made in the streets and in the many workshops that fill the town. The pagans get their trinkets (carved from olive, palm, and fig trees) blessed by their pagan priests, even as the Muslim Palestinians who now control the place (thanks to the United Nations, Jimmy Carter, the Bushes, the Clintons, and the Obamas), laugh at their foolishness. Walking around with scowls on their faces and automatic weapons in their arms, Mohammed's henchmen refuse to allow a single Jew into the area, and the visitor is greeted with a sign in large letters reading

"NO JEWS ALLOWED." The United Nations has no problem with this bigotry as they are too busy trying to force Israel to give up more land and allow more Muslims to take over more towns and cities that were built by the Jews.

The pagan emperor Constantine had a Church of the Nativity built over a spot that his mother was told was the place of Christ's birth. The tourist today stoops to enter a small doorway that leads down to a dark hole that is marked with a star on the floor, where pagans can have unclean spirits give them goosebumps as they pass by and kiss the marker.

One autumn night, two thousand and twenty years ago, in this same small village, the birth of Jesus Christ was heralded by angels to a few shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks on the hillsides. They were told that **"unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"** (Luke 2:11).

Though the saved today are thankful and reflect on the day of His birth, we know that this was God, making **"himself of no reputation"** and taking **"upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"** (Phil. 2:7). This babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger had grown up to become **"despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief"** (Isa. 53:3), while this world hides their faces from Him.

Men equate greatness with bigness. They think that the stage must

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be of great size for the event to be important, but this birth was in a small village of a small nation with only a few poor witnesses. The angels did not sing their praises so loud as to thunder it across the heavens for all to hear. Only a couple of unknown Jewish shepherds heard the strain and saw their light as those ministers of flaming fire were allowed to announce it. The shepherds decided to look into the announcement of the angels as they left their flocks to see the Saviour.

As born-again believers, we like to pause at the miracle of the Lord Jesus coming to this earth to be **“made of a woman”** (Gal. 4:4). In order to take our place on the Cross to pay for our sins with His blood, He had to first be made **“in the likeness of sinful flesh”** (Rom. 8:3), and be **“in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”** (Heb. 4:15).

A visit to Bethlehem is better made by the believer in his spirit than in his body. The awe of what took place that night is ruined today by the sight of Muslims walking around with their automatic weapons, and the hawking of trinkets to the thousands of superstitious, religious pilgrims that come from around the world. The Christian can offer up more worship by meditating on what took place when the Son of God left His throne in heaven, crossed the great deep, condescended past the constellations, and entered this present evil world's atmosphere of sin, to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem.

“God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

The mystery of God manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16) should continue to bring wonder into the heart of the believer this season, and every season.

On December 25th, 2020, much of the world will acknowledge the first coming of Jesus Christ, as the babe “born among cattle in poverty sore”. A few billion dollars will be spent on presents and gifts to each other, but little thought and worship toward the One who humbled himself, will actually take place. Only a very small fraction of them will be counting on the promise that He soon is going to return, not as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, but as the risen King, who will first descend from heaven with a shout, to bodily catch up to heaven those who have been born again (both the living and the dead—1 Thess. 4:14-18), and then later return in **“flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (II Thess. 1:8). The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in power, and great glory as the **“KING OF KINGS”** (Revelation 19:16), and no one will tell Him in that day that there is no room in the inn (Luke 2:7).

As another year draws to a close and goes ahead into the books of judgment, it is a good time to look back and review our efforts that were made to get ourselves, as well as both lost and saved souls, ready for the return of the Lord Jesus. Sadly, most will look back on 2020 as a “rough year” that were “unprecedented times”, as their minds were distracted by a satanic media

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frenzy regarding a virus. They will remember the “inconveniences” of getting sick, wearing masks, church and school closings, and their favorite restaurants not open. Many others will remember it as “one of the most important elections in the history of this country”.

Thoughts of eternal souls led to Christ are way down the list, if even on it. The present “crisis” just took over, and the majority of Christians buckled in the face of a mild trial. The **“trial of your faith”** that could have been **“much more precious than of gold that perisheth”** (I Pet. 1:7), instead turned into fear and concern for personal safety. Looking back on the last twelve months, what comes foremost to mind? Will it be of souls with tears receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour? Will it be preaching the gospel with an open Bible to lost, scared sinners? Will it be a year that had a testimony to our lost neighbors that **“for to me to live is Christ and to die is gain”** (Phil. 1:21), and that we should not henceforth live unto ourselves, as the **“love of Christ constraineth us”** (II Cor. 5:14)?

With a new year about to enter, we are in a position of **“not knowing the things that shall befall”** us in 2021, but that **“none of these things move”** us (Acts 20:22-24), especially knowing that it is **“high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed”** (Rom. 13:11).

As I write this, I'm not sure who won the election, or if there are presently riots in the streets, but they are com-

ing, and much worse. We are faced with the great opportunity to make a stand for the Lord Jesus before we go home. We might get the chance to actually suffer for Him and have it cost us something to refuse to go along with the Laodicean program of saving our own comfort, our own safety, our own American lifestyle, and even our own lives. May the Lord Jesus raise up some young men and women in these last days who will pick up the slack where the older preachers have failed them. May God grant some young people the discernment before it's too late, to realize that “saving the USA” was a farce and a distraction from the Christian's calling.

As Bible believers, we know that Jesus was not born on December 25th, but that does not mean that we can't stop and reflect on the greatest interruption known in human history, namely, God with us (**“Immanuel”**), coming into the world to save sinners. He was truly born to die.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

December 11–13

Anchor Baptist Church
10440 Crain Hwy.
Faulkner, MD 20632
Pastor Bob Joseph
(540) 663-0192

January 15–17

Bible Believers Baptist Church
3857 Hartley Road
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Pastor David Peacock
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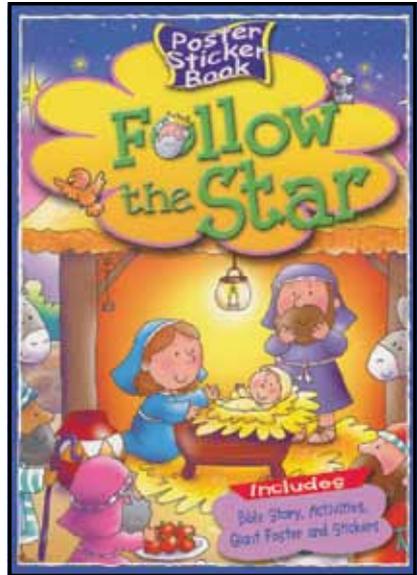


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God's "Plumb Bob"

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

As this age draws to a conclusion and the UN prepares to receive the Antichrist as a world ruler, the religious picture gets more confused by the minute, until at last it simply is unintelligible. Ever since Vatican II (1964), the popes have sworn that they and Mohammed worship the same God. Of course, to get into their official office as the Catholics' "Holy Father," they all had to swear to believe and follow the decrees of the Holy Council of Trent, which state that all Mohammedans are *cursed*. So as the Campbellite author O. C. Lambert documented, "Catholicism" is "against itself" in this matter, as in so many other things.

The church that taught its "Crusaders" for 196 years that if they were killed in combat against Mohammedans they would go straight to heaven (while the Mohammedans were taught the same thing about killing Roman Catholics), is now getting along with them just like Herod and Pilate coming together over the issue of Jesus Christ (Luke 23:11-12). I have a picture of Pope Benedict XVI kissing a Koran. (Editor's note: At present there is a picture released by the Vatican of Pope Francis kissing an imam as a

symbol of their "solidarity.") Of course, the book he is kissing tells its followers to kill everyone who doesn't believe in Mohammed and his moon god until the whole world is brought into submission to "Allah" and his "prophet" (see Sura 9:29, 66:9, 8:39). That would include all popes, all cardinals, all bishops, all priests, all nuns, all monks, and the entire membership of the Roman Catholic Church.

Imagine President Bush saying that Islam is a religion of peace when it is, by far, the most war-like, murderous religion ever invented by man. That's not an "assertion"; you can see it documented "to the hilt" in *Will the Real Allah Please Stand Up?* If Obama and Bloomberg had been able to have their way, the United States government would have used your tax money to build a Muslim mosque on the site where Muslim jihadis flew two planes into the two towers of the World Trade Center and murdered over 3,000 people. There was no talk of building a Jewish synagogue or a Christian church (of any denomination) within half a mile of "Ground Zero"; that would be "intolerant" to Mohammed's religion.

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God's "Plumb Bob"

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No Mohammedan ever believed in tolerating other religions. You don't see anyone building Baptist churches or Jewish synagogues in Saudi Arabia or Iran or in any country where "sharia" (Islamic, Koranic law) is the law of the land because it is forbidden under sharia for "kafir" (infidels, like Jews and Christians) or "dhimmi" (Jews and Christians who have been subjugated by the Islamic government) to build new church buildings or repair existing ones. That is not to say there are not believers in Jesus Christ in those countries, but they have to meet in secret, because if they are caught, they can legally be arrested, imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and beheaded.

In countries where the Muslims are not in charge, the rule is:

1. When the Muslim population in a country is under 2%, they are "peace loving."

2. When the Muslim are 2%–5%, they begin to recruit "minorities" and gang members (like the blacks in prison).

3. After 5%, they push for "acceptance," like "halal" food in grocery stores and prayer rooms in public places.

4. When they reach 10%, they start mob protests and violence, including harassing and raping women who aren't Muslims.

5. At 20% of the population, the violence escalates, with open jihadi militias, murders, and burning down churches and synagogues.

6. At 40%, Muslims carry out massacres, constant terror attacks, and militia warfare.

7. From 60% onward, the jihad is open, with religious and ethnic genocide.

8. Only when a country is 100% Islamic is there to be "peace." In reality, though, this is the point when Moslems turn on each other and begin killing any other Moslem who is not a part of their sect (Shiites, Sunnis, etc.)

So when you hear that "only a minority of Muslims are terrorists," realize that doesn't tell you anything. How many Muslims are there? What percentage is the "minority?" If you take just the United States alone, how many terrorists does that work out to? Well, there are 3,450,000 Muslims in the USA. The liberals will tell you only 1.1% are "radical" (i.e., they take the commands of the Koran to kill Jews and Christians seriously), although ex-Moslems who know what is going on will tell you the percentage is closer to 15%–25%. Be that as it may, do you know what "only" 1.1% of 3,450,000 is? Why does no one do the math? It is 37,950. Why that is enough "radical" jihadis to put 759 terrorists in all fifty states in the Union. It only took *nineteen* to bomb the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on "9-11."

That is just a sample of the religious muddle going on. While Obama is trying to overrun this nation with Moslem "refugees" from Syria, Somalia, etc., the Canadian government is arresting preachers for preaching (and in one case, merely reading) Romans 1 and Genesis 19. That is, preachers are being arrested for preaching the Book God called them to preach.

With all this confusion there is a passage you should notice back in the Old Testament: **"And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people**

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God's "Plumb Bob"

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Israel: I will not again pass by them any more" (Amos 7:8).

A plumb bob is still used by all masons and carpenters today. The idea behind it is simple: you can't build anything straight vertically unless you begin at the top.

I had better say that again so you get it: you cannot build anything vertically unless you begin at the TOP. That means you can never go the straight way up to heaven by beginning at the bottom and climbing up; there just isn't any way to do it. Trying to get to heaven by man-made means (like taking the sacraments or saying the shahada seventeen times a day during the five daily Moslem prayers or keeping the Ten Commandments or observing the Golden Rule, etc.) is like throwing a plumb bob into the air and trying to build up it before it falls back to the ground. All religions begin at ground level and work up; that will be Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Judaism, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant "Christianity." Biblical salvation is the only so-called "religion" in the world that comes down from the top. All the others stand in the mud and crack their skulls open by throwing their own plumb bobs in the air.

The Lord said, "**I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people.**" You aren't going to do anything. This shows what very few people have noticed—biblical Christianity is the only "religion" on the face of this earth where you have to deal with a *person* rather than a litany of religious duties. Religions are what *sinners* do to try to earn righteousness to get wherever they are trying to get when they die (heaven, paradise, Valhalla, happy

hunting ground, etc.). Biblical Christianity is what *Somebody else has done* for the sinner to get him there. That Somebody is somebody from *upstairs*: biblical Christianity begins at the top.

Salvation begins at the throne of God and works down. (See our note on Exod. 25:10 in the Ruckman Reference Bible.) If you could reverse the procedure and work your way up, you would forcibly be thrown out of heaven bodily for being "**a thief and a robber**" (John 10:1). Don't try it.

The greatest "**plumbline**" God ever placed in Israel is the only One He has placed in every other nation on earth (Rom. 10:9–18). That Plumb bob was *God's way* to the top (John 14:6): it was a man (1 Tim. 2:5). When He showed up, He forever settled the question about man's goodness and all his religions (John 15:22). To build even with that Plumb line, you would have to be sinless (Heb. 4:15), and *you're not* (Rom. 3:23).

Here's how to spot the right Plumb line; here is the Plumb bob talking:

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:14).

"I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:7–9).

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:27–28).

There in John 10:28 eternal life is a gift just as in Romans 6:23 and

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God's "Plumb Bob"

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1 John 5:11. Notice also that the Plumb bob says that once He has given the sheep eternal life that **"they shall never perish."** That is said even though every Roman Catholic creed before and after Vatican II says that they can perish. It is said even though the Greek Orthodox Church always taught they could; so did the Episcopalians, Methodists, and the Pentecostals.

In 1970, the Roman Catholic Knights of Columbus, in *This Is the Catholic Church* (pg. 13), swear that

"there is no such thing as absolute certainty of salvation during this life." That is the exact position of Moham-medanism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormonism. The universal confession of all religions put up by man is that Jesus Christ didn't know about what He was talking in John 10:27-29. That means all those Bible-rejecting reprobates found in all those man-made religions believed Jesus Christ to be a *liar*; just as they

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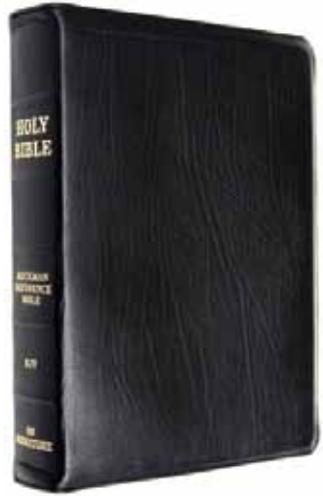
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God's "Plumb Bob"

Continued from 18
believed Peter to be a liar (1 Pet. 1:4–5), Paul to be a liar (2 Tim. 1:12), and John to be a liar (1 John 5:13).

According to the official doctrinal beliefs of their church, every Roman Catholic from A.D. 325–2015 knew the Plumb bob personally. Mother Teresa confessed she was in complete darkness when it came to knowing where she was going when she died. Not one Catholic pope, cardinal, archbishop, bishop, priest, monk, or nun had assurance of salvation as a present possession although the Apostle to the Gentiles who wrote the Epistle to the Romans (Rom. 11:13) told the saints in Rome (Rom. 1:7) that *nothing* could separate them **“from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Rom. 8:38–39) and that they were predestinated to wind up *just like Jesus Christ* (Rom. 8:29). So no Roman Catholic through 1,500 years of church history, who believed what his church taught, believed **“the holy scriptures”** (Rom. 1:2) as any “early Christian” believed them. The early Christians are found in the book of Acts. They received and believed the epistles written to them by Peter, Paul, and John (e.g., 1 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 16:25).

The Bible-rejecting, Bible-correcting, allegorizing, philosophical “church fathers” who planted the seeds of blind Catholic agnosticism were never *apostles*; not one of them (Cyprian, Clement, Papias, Augustine, Origen, Jerome, Tertullian, Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, or Justin Martyr). While professing to believe in God’s Plumb line, the Lord Jesus Christ, not one of them believed He told the truth in John 10:27–29.

A preacher friend of mine here in

Florida was once dealing with a Holiness woman about salvation. The two of them had a heated discussion about the security of the believer, with that charismatic woman doing her best to apply Hebrews 6:1–6, 10:26–30; Matthew 24:13; and Galatians 5:4 to born-again Christians in the body of Christ. When my buddy made her read Romans 8:29 out loud, she made a loud suck-in of air and practically yelled at him, “Oh, I wish he hadn’t said that!” Exactly. So do the Pharisees, popes, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, etc.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).

Another of my ministerial buddies was preaching a revival where a Nazarene came in and sat down in the “amen corner.” My buddy was preaching on **“Come, see a man”** from John 4:29, and that Nazarene lustily amen’d every point. “Come see a Healer!” (“Amen! Amen!”) “Come see a Captain!” (“Amen! Hallelujah! Glory to God!”) “Come see a Shepherd!” (“Amen! That’s Him! That’s the Good Shepherd! Gloreee!”) And then my buddy finished up by saying, “Come, see the One who gives His sheep eternal life and never lost a one of them!” He was quoting, of course, John 10:27–28.

That did it. There was a blank space there where that shouting Nazarene never let out a squeak. He couldn’t find anything in that statement to amen. I suppose that at heart he thought he was as good as Mohammed or 200 “Holy Fathers” at Rome.

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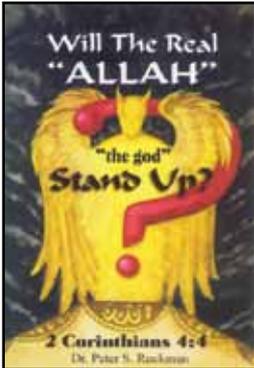
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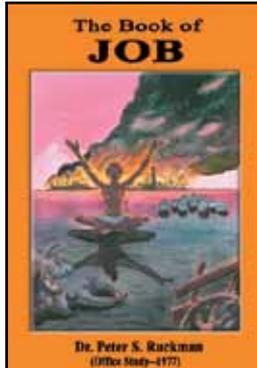
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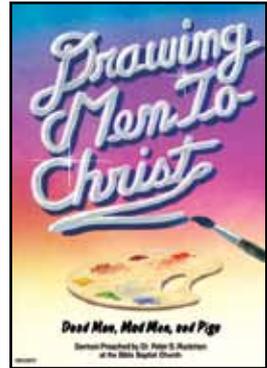
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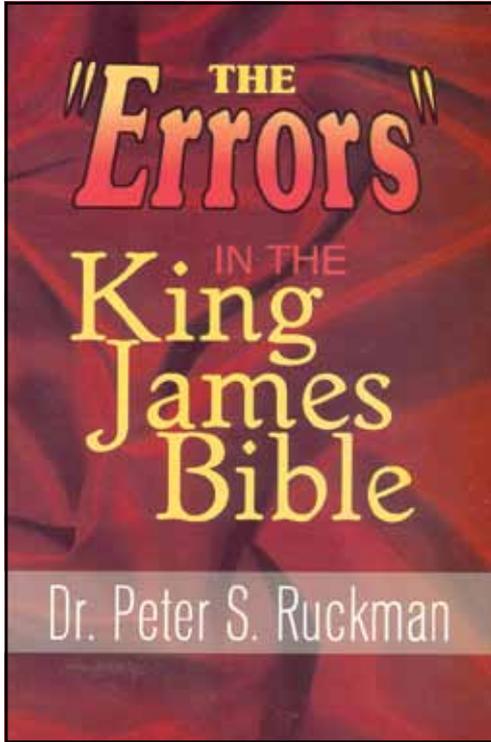
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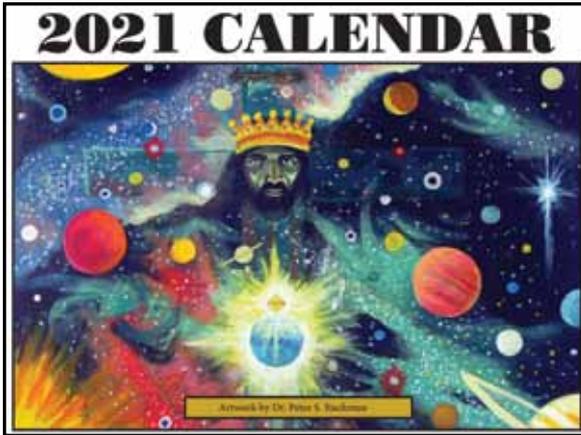
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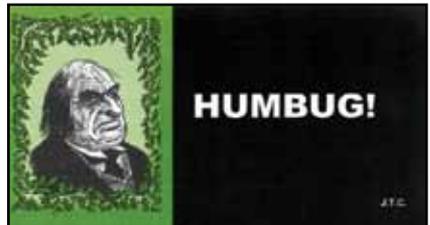
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Controlled Chaos

By Robert Militello

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And SHALL GO OUT TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS which are in the four quarters of the earth. . .” (Rev. 20:7-8).

Did being bound with a great chain lying in a bottomless pit for a thousand years stop the devil from returning to his life's work upon regaining his freedom? See Revelation 20:1-3. As a master geopolitician with supreme confidence in his ability to get his way (regardless of what the scripture says), Satan's hate for one people and one city is not humanly comprehensible. Hitler took his intense, undying hatred of the Jews to his last heartbeat. He blamed them for everything that went wrong. The wicked one could have established his kingdom upon earth with all nations serving him if he had found a way to eliminate all David's descendants. With all his brilliance and cunning, he was unable to do so.

National and international chaos frightens people. It sets the stage for the overthrow of order and the rule of law. Loss of confidence in government and the institutions which regulate society move the masses to agree to fixing problems even if the devil presents himself as the only hope for a world staggering like a drunkard. Even the Jews, the apple of God's eye, will look to escape the mess the nations have gotten themselves into.

“And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand. . .” (Isa. 28:18).

Fear, such as the nations have never known, will drive them into the

devil's arms. If 2020 proved anything, it is that controlled chaos can condition the most advanced societies to accept almost any government edict that promises peace and safety for the population. **“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”** (1 Thess. 5:3).

Titus 2:13 is a trap door about to open soon, allowing one large mass of privileged people (God's saints) to escape while sealing in billions who loved this world in spite of its stench of decay and spiritual leprosy.

Christmas is, and should be, a confidence builder for those who believe God's word and wait for His promise to rescue His bride.

Some Jewish friends I had back in Brooklyn lived on a cloud, so to speak, as they waited for the joy of their lives—their wedding day. Leading up to that day, there was frenetic activity on the part of both sets of parents to make sure all would go well. A college buddy of mine, Louie Abrams, had to calm his parents down when he told them he would be marrying a gentile girl from the Bronx. Jewish men in love with gentile women no longer allowed themselves to be pressured out of the marriage. Things had begun to change in the sixties, although not so much among the orthodox.

Now here's something. Our heavenly Father was more than OK with his only Son going after a gentile woman. Imagine the joy that will overwhelm the angels and saints in heaven when the Redeemer takes His gentile fiancée to His Father's

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Controlled Chaos

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house. We are being prepared for that day as I write, and that loving preparation will include passing through some rough days. Paul told us in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 that those who do good would be despised. Hatred for the truth and those who hold to it will come out fully from the closet where it stayed somewhat hidden behind pious words and phony religious posturing. The Lord's bride to be will be beside herself with joy upon escaping the flood of filth now enveloping nations on all continents.

"My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one and come away" (Song of Sol. 2:10). It's not easy to be patient waiting for the day of days to arrive.

"Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices" (Song of Sol. 8:14).

Will the perilous times Paul spoke about in 2 Timothy 3:1 help the church shake off a lot of the spiritual indifference it has allowed to form like barnacles on the bottom of a boat? Millions of saints in America quit running the race years ago. Others who have endured hardness and spoke up for Jesus without fear will be eager to leave.

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psa. 42:1-2).

Maybe that question will be answered before we see another Christmas roll around. Amen? Should any believer be surprised when God uses fear to move that believer out

of his or her comfort zone? When a neighborhood turns bad, fear brings in the moving trucks. I saw this in Brooklyn as a youth when moving to Long Island was a big thing.

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, MOVED WITH FEAR. . ." (Heb. 11:7).

An outbreak of social chaos following our national election will surely cause more Jews to want to leave the U.S. for Israel. God has His ways. Expect the Lord to deal convincingly with His bride to be in the coming year.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent" (Rev. 3:19).

Our Lord's first coming was set in motion by an imperial decree. Around 3 B.C. (the date is debatable), the Lord put it into the heart of Caesar Augustus to register and tax all his subjects throughout the empire. Observe the Lord uses a government edict to get Joseph and Mary to leave Nazareth for Bethlehem, for they were of the house of David. This was a dangerous journey of over 90 miles with a woman heavy with child. If they covered eight miles a day, it was still a twelve-day trip. There must have been a severe penalty for not registering for the tax, or Joseph might have thought otherwise about making the trip. Caesar is used to fulfill prophecy (Mic. 5:2), and I suspect it will happen again.

Will we soon see an international edict from the World Health Organization to make sure all the world gets vaccinated? If not the WHO, then someone will come along

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Controlled Chaos

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backed by the great powers who will implement a program to provide health care for all financed by some form of U.N. tax. The door to the Second Coming of the Lord may open this way, so pay attention to how the war against Covid 19 will be fought.

“That which hath been IS NOW; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past” (Eccl. 3:15).

What about the church? Could such an international edict trigger the removal of the saints—sure! There’s a lot of talk today among believers about taking a mark (Rev. 13:16–18) offered by the False Prophet during the tribulation period. Covid 19 and what will follow has done more to prepare the world’s population to yield to international authority more than any other crisis the nations have experienced. Fear will put in gear the Lord’s plan to destroy the old order and bring in the kingdom at last.

“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy” (Zeph. 3:8).

Coincidental with the spiritual darkness intensifying with each passing year, the light being given to those searching the scriptures is increasing. Understanding the times in which we now live, those who look for the Lord see the comfort and the reward for patience found in 1 Thessalonians 5:4. (**“But ye,**

brethren, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”)

Not all Israel was asleep spiritually prior to the Lord’s first coming. Many knew the Seventy Weeks prophecy found in Daniel. Wise men from the East searched for the Star that would come out of Jacob. Herod believed the prophets to the point of ordering the savage murder of all the little children of Bethlehem two years old and younger (Matt. 2:16). No Jew who read his Bible (Old Testament) regularly could voluntarily stop wondering when the Messiah would finally show up. So it is today with believers whose affections are not set on earthly things and yearn to be changed from a vile body to a glorious one. Nevertheless, as the body of Christ marks time wondering, “When is He coming?”, the temptation to slack off and go to sleep spiritually has caused the Holy Spirit to rebuke the church for lukewarmness (Rev. 3:16).

If the megachurches we have today are not causing the Lord to vomit, revival would have come to many dark places in our land. Instead, the cults have grown, and the King James Bible is no longer as important as having a meaningful worship experience—whatever that is! Good things are worth waiting for, but patience is in short supply today, so we’ll hear repeatedly, **“Where is the promise of his coming?”** (2 Pet. 3:4).

There is a new optimism in the Middle East regarding peace between Israel and a number of Arab nations in the Gulf. This is not an

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unexpected development. There is always an attempt to talk things out before disaster strikes.

“And Cain TALKED with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him” (Gen. 4:8).

The illusion of peace is a strong intoxicant for those terrified of thinking negatively. God’s land will be carved up again (Joel 3:2); it was carved up in 1921 when Jordan was created by the British. Then, the territory given to Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh was stolen from the Jews and given to the Hashemite Arabs who helped Britain defeat the Turks in Palestine in 1917. So the prophecy of Joel 3:2 has two parts to it. The second part is going to be accomplished soon. So what does the Lord say regarding the peace talks between Isaac and Ishmael?

“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up” (Joel 3:9).

All the hopes of the Jews whose forefathers rejected the Prince of Peace will rest upon one man whose cunning and craft will bring about what Israel hopes will be real peace between it and their neighbors. This messiah, now expected to come shortly by observant Jews, will be so effective as a peacemaker that the Jewish remnant that refuses to trust him will be persecuted and driven into the wilderness to wait for the Lion of the tribe of Judah to rescue them. What a shock awaits unbelieving Israel. Their hope will be in a man

foretold in scripture as being a fraud.

“He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant. The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords” (Psa. 55:20–21).

Here’s a Jewish book telling the children of Jacob what will come in the last days, but it is cast aside because negativity upsets people. The wisdom of this world is worthless when it comes to judging the hearts of men. Hitler proved that to millions of Germans and Austrians a century before the devil’s christ was to step onto the world’s stage. Studying history without the knowledge of God’s word is like reading “Alice in Wonderland.” Very sad!

“I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit” (Eccl. 1:14).

That scripture should be cut into the cornerstone of every college and university in our land. Mankind will stumble into a spiritual no man’s land as 2021 will further exalt the god of science. Last August, the democratic presidential nominee stated that if elected, he would trust science and the medical establishment to vanquish the Covid pandemic. Former vice president, Joe Biden, spoke for the vast majority of elected officials who have no relation to the living God and cannot see that judgment is a certain consequence of abandoning faith in God’s word. Righteousness exalteth a nation—not medical science. Throughout 2019, President Trump

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boasted repeatedly of how well the U.S. economy was performing. It appeared that the winds of prosperity would keep blowing. Then came the surprise virus from China.

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18).

The USA had to be reminded of how their bread was being buttered, and God’s word deserved much more than political lip service.

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and THE LORD ALONE shall be exalted in that day” (Isa. 2:11).

We who have trusted the Lord to save our souls need a Christmas each year to remind us that God keeps his word. We need to be refreshed and reminded that no matter what we see happening around us, Romans 8:28 leads to still waters and a comfort that man and his inventions cannot provide. That Jew who saved my soul is very anxious to bring His gentile bride to His Father’s house. Making the world a better place to live while waiting for my Lord to come is not my mandate. Whether a Covid vaccine is developed or not has no bearing on how I am to live out the days left to me. The fear that Covid has produced among almost all our population opens a door for me.

“The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment” (Psa. 37:30).

How do you deal with a positive thinking, T.V. brainwashed Christian, who has been conditioned to repeat ad nauseam, “God loves you; God loves you.”? Put a muzzle on his

mouth with these words of David, **“For the LORD loveth judgment. . .”** (Psa. 37:28). That will help remove the spiritual smiley face many saints put on like a mask each day. What happened to boldness? It was once found in most pulpits. Where did it go?

You would think God’s people would be quick to discern the spiritual implications of the times in which they are living. Sadly, since the abandonment of the King James Bible, the level of spiritual discernment in the body of Christ is about as poor as that of a Catholic priest.

“Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; BUT MY PEOPLE KNOW NOT THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD” (Jer. 8:7).

This is what happens when you filter out all that is negative and forget that a holy God hates sin. The Jews and their leadership had little use for their prophets because the messages they delivered were anything but flattering. How’s this for comfort when you refuse to repent and hide behind your robes of self-righteousness,

“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh” (Prov. 1:26).

What rabbi had the nerve to quote that scripture when the first temple was burned to the ground some four hundred and twenty years after Solomon penned that verse?

We choose what we want to believe, based on various currents that run through our minds. Except

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for Bible believers who know better, how many Americans still believe our best days are ahead of us? Never underestimate the power of supposedly intelligent people to fall into a destructive pattern of self-delusion. Perhaps no nation allowed itself to be seduced so thoroughly as Germany did under Hitler. He spoke with such a powerful, satanic energy that even those who initially opposed

his policies were easily converted at his Nazi party rallies and torchlight parades. Consider that soon this wicked, Christ-rejecting world will receive a man filled with the devil preaching the gospel of "Peace and Safety" to a frightened world.

The tragic rejection of Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah is not yet total. It awaits the embrace by most Jews of a man who will reject the God of

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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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his fathers and embrace the God of Forces (see Dan. 11:37–38). This will be a national, powerful delusion that will produce worldwide destruction far beyond anything Hitler set in motion. Fear and international chaos will make this world hunger for a man who presents himself as a magical vaccine able to save the nations and bring humanity together. Such a salesman, the world has never seen as of yet. Woe unto the inhabitants of this world.

Light shines brightest in the darkest of places. Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, lasts eight days. It comes this year on December 10th when the daylight diminishes rapidly in the northern hemisphere. It is not a significant holiday period, and like Purim is called a festival. For Jews in neighborhoods dominated by gentiles, it is an opportunity to feel good like the “Christians” celebrating Christmas. They light their Menorahs, one candle on each of the eight nights, and tell the story of Hanukkah found in First and Second Maccabees, books which are not considered scripture in the Jewish Bible and our King James. Only the Catholics consider those books to be part of the Bible. Jews are great storytellers (consider Hollywood), and Catholics believe all kinds of non-biblical fables. Nevertheless, Hanukkah is real history. Jesus recognized the festival (see John 10:22–23).

So Hanukkah serves as a reminder that God’s light will be preserved through the darkest of times. It is a great comfort to know that light eventually breaks through even after such a time as the Dark Ages (500–

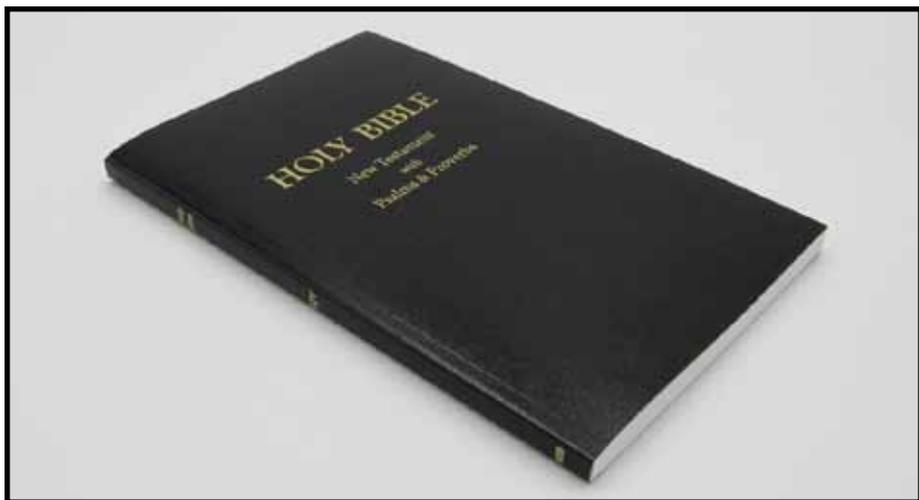
1500 AD) when Martin Luther and others broke the Catholic hold in large parts of Europe. In a sense, we are experiencing a dark age because the King James Bible has been attacked ferociously since 1881.

Christmas is a light that secular society has tried hard to divorce from its spiritual meaning that makes the day so special. The *Charlie Brown Christmas* cartoon that appears on T.V. at Christmas time has done much to present the gospel to millions of children and others who might otherwise never hear about Jesus. I thank God for that. Things have gotten darker this past year and will get darker still in 2021. Yet somehow, someway, the word of God will go and bring light to the darkest corners of men’s minds because there are Christians who desire most to see others saved.

As a young boy, our Lord’s mind was already set and unmovable. He was “lost” in the temple and when “found,” he said to Mary and Joseph, **“wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s BUSINESS?”** (Luke 2:49).

Here’s a Jewish kid already animated in His spirit to get down to business. Amazing, isn’t it? No wonder Jews excel gentiles in business and the professions. Would to God, the Holy Spirit would seek out and infuse young believers with a holy, intense zeal to go fishing for souls and immerse themselves joyfully in their Father’s business. That’s really your best life now if you will look at life from God’s point of view and not yours.

“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (James 5:8).



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